

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 039125

FOR SCIATT

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: ASTP INFORMATION PLAN

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM NASA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR LOW TO INTERCOSMOS CHAIRMAN PETROV.

2. QUOTE. IN A FEW DAYS YOU WILL RECEIVE THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW A DRAFT OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR PART II OF THE ASTP INFORMATION PLAN.

3. QUOTE. WE BELIEVE IT MOST DESIRABLE THAT CONSIDERATION OF PART II BEGIN IN TIME FOR EACH SIDE TO AUTHORIZE THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF ASTP WORKING GROUP 1 TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, DURING THEIR APRIL MEETING IN HOUSTON, THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES ON THE MISSION TIME LINE.

4. QUOTE. TO THIS END, I PROPOSE THAT A GROUP OF U.S.

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EXPERTS PROCEED TO MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE

MARCH 16-20. THIS GROUP WOULD BE HEADED BY JOHN P. DONNELLY, NASA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS. HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ASSOCIATES IN NASA PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ROBERT J. SHAFER AND JOHN W. KING, AND BY AN INTERPRETER. HE WOULD ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY EUGENE A. CERNAN OF THE NASA ASTP PROJECT WHO WILL BRING TO BEAR ANY RELEVANT MISSION CONSTRAINTS. I ASSUME YOU WOULD HAVE SIMILAR REPRESENTATIVES.

5. QUOTE. IF THIS PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE, I WOULD LOOK TO YOU TO NAME AN OFFICIAL WHO COULD SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY WITH DONNELLY ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED IN THE PLAN. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE MEETING WOULD RESULT IN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON PART II TO PERMIT WORKING GROUP 1 TO FACTOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSIDERATIONS INTO ITS APRIL WORK. AS WAS THE CASE WITH PART I, ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED BY THESE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICIALS WOULD BE REPORTED TO THE PROJECT TECHNICAL DIRECTORS AND BE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY NASA AND THE SOVIET ACADEMY.

6. QUOTE. ORDINARILY, OF COURSE, ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE MADE BY OUR PROJECT TECHNICAL DIRECTORS, AND I WOULD EXPECT THIS CHANNEL TO BE USED IN THE FUTURE. WITH TIME SO SHORT, HOWEVER, I AM WRITING YOU DIRECTLY TO EXPEDITE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. I WILL WELCOME YOUR EARLY REPLY.

GEORGE M. LOW
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR UNQUOTE.
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